

Sportsmen for Bristol Bay – Biographies
Washington, DC Fly-In, April 2012

Whit Fosburgh: President & CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Washington, DC

Prior to working at the TRCP, Fosburgh spent 15 years working in leadership roles on fisheries conservation issues. Additionally, Fosburgh served as fisheries' director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; chief environment and energy staff person for Sen. Tom Daschle; and was a wildlife specialist for the National Audubon Society. Fosburgh grew up hunting and fishing in upstate New York and was a member of team USA at the 1997 World Fly Fishing Championships. He brings a wealth of experience in conservation policy, as well as a passion for the outdoors.

Gordon Robertson: Vice President of the American Sportfishing Association
Alexandria, VA

Gordon Robertson's natural resources career spans more than 30 years, much of it in natural resource policy, state and federal legislation, as well as managing fish and wildlife programs. He is currently Vice President of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) in Alexandria, Virginia. The ASA represents the sport fishing industry's interests, with over 900 manufacturing, wholesale, distributor, and retail members. An avid hunter and angler, Mr. Robertson is a member of the American Fisheries Society, Wildlife Society and the Society of American Foresters, as well as numerous natural resource and wildlife conservation organizations. He has chaired and served on numerous national committees and task forces that have helped shape issues ranging from wilderness management to assuring that dollars paid by manufacturers and hunters and anglers remain dedicated to the purpose of sound fish and wildlife programs. Throughout his career, he has been involved in key federal and state legislative and policy decisions for the benefit of anglers and hunters and the resources they value.

Len Vallender: Conservation Committee Chair for Camp Fire Club of America
Chappaqua, NY

Len Vallender is a businessman and owner of FenBar Precision Machinists, Inc. (43 years), Abrasive Cutting Corp., and Little Skeeters LLC. Len has been actively involved with sportsman conservation issues for decades. He has been a member of Camp Fire Club of America for 37 years, serving as the organization's president from 1991 – 1993, and as chairman of its conservation committee for 19 years. He has been a member of Boone & Crockett Club since 2004; has been awarded the Hammett Award for Conservation; and worked on the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust from 2005 to 2009.

Chris Wood: President & CEO of Trout Unlimited
Arlington, VA

Before joining Trout Unlimited in September 2001, Chris Wood served as the senior policy and communications advisor to the Chief of the US Forest Service for five years. Chris began his career as a temporary employee with Forest Service Research in Idaho and also worked for the Bureau of Land Management, and American Rivers, a river conservation group. He is the author and co-author of two books including, "Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices," (AFS 1997) and "From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Land Legacy." (Island Press, 1997)

Dennis Ballard: Conservation Committee of the Pope and Young Club
Boone County, MO

Dennis is a long-time Regular Member of the Pope & Young Club, bow hunting's repository of big game trophy records. He presently serves on the Club's Conservation and Museum Committees. He has participated in statewide conservation programs since 1985 as a member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM). He is credited with founding Missouri's highly successful "Share the Harvest" venison

donation program in 1990 which in recent years has collected over 250,000 pounds of venison annually for the state's feed the hungry program (a high of over 350,000 pounds). He later served as the CFM Executive Director from 1999-2003. Dennis hasn't missed an opening day of bow season since 1956 and still bow hunts for whitetails and turkeys every year behind his farm home.

Wayne Nastri: Senior Vice President, mCapitol Management
Irvine, CA

Wayne is a Senior Vice President and Co-Chair of the Energy and Environment Practice at mCapitol Management. Prior to joining mCapitol, he worked with a prominent Washington DC based government relations firm where he worked with corporate clients and non-governmental organizations (NGO) on primarily environmental and energy issues. Wayne has worked in government sector as well having been appointed by President George W. Bush and serving for nearly eight years as the Region 9 Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2001-2009. Before his appointment as Regional Administrator, he served on the Governing Board of California's South Coast Air Quality Management District where he chaired the Technology Committee.

Jason Metrokin: President and CEO, Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Anchorage, AK

Jason is part Aleut and previously served as a vice president of development at the First Alaskans Institute and he worked as an assistant vice president at the National Bank of Alaska. He is a founding member of the Alaska Native Professional Association.

L. Tiel Smith: Land and Resource Manager, Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Dillingham, AK

Tiel is a lifelong commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay. He is a Bristol Bay Native Corporation and Choggiung Shareholder and a member of Curyung Tribal Council.

Tom Franklin: Sr. Director of Science & Policy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Washington, DC

Tom joined the TRCP in March of 2007. He was a wildlife biologist with the Urban Wildlife Research Center from 1973 to 1978 and promoted to Executive Director in 1978. In 1983, The Wildlife Society employed him as Field Director and in 1991, he was promoted to Wildlife Policy Director. In June 2005, he joined the Izaak Walton League of America as Conservation Director. Tom is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. He has received the Daniel L. Leedy Urban Wildlife Conservation Award; Professional of the Year award from the Maryland/Delaware Chapter of The Wildlife Society; and The Wildlife Society's President's Award and Special Recognition Service Award. He served as President of The Wildlife Society from 2008-'09 and is a Society Fellow. He also was appointed to the US Environmental Protection Agency Farm and Ranchland Advisory Committee and currently serves on the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Advisory Council for the US Departments of Agriculture and Interior. He is on the Executive Committee of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners; Steering Committee of the Teaming With Wildlife Coalition; is on the Board of Directors for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, and chairs the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Jeff Gronauer: Conservation Committee Deputy Chair for Camp Fire Club of America
Chappaqua, NY

Jeff Gronauer has been a member of the Camp fire Club of America since 1997, serving as the Deputy Chair of the Camp Fire Conservation Committee (started in 1909), Projects Chairman of the Camp Fire Conservation Fund (a 501 (c) 3 organization started in 1977) and as the Camp Fire Club's Historian. He has worked with the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust from 2005-2009. He is also a Regular member of the Boone and Crockett Club since 2005.

Katie Distler Eckman: Board Chair of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Winston-Salem, NC

Katie Distler Eckman is a seasoned conservationist with significant experience in the nonprofit and foundation communities. She is a wildlife biologist and forester by training, and currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Most recently, she served as Executive Director of the Turner Foundation, a private family foundation created by Ted Turner and dedicated to environmental protection. Before joining Turner, Katie served as the Assistant Director of the Southeast Region for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and coordinated its Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative. Past positions have afforded her the opportunity for extensive travel to Alaska, where conservation of the state's wildlife, fisheries and natural resources was a priority. As a funder, she worked to understand the complex nature of conservation challenges in the state and strategically direct resources for the greatest impact.

Dr. Richard Allen: Past President of Dallas Safari Club & Past President Dallas Ecological Foundation
Kerrville, TX

Richard Allen joined the Dallas Safari Club (DSC) in 1977 and has been an active volunteer member since. During his tenure, he has held numerous elected positions including president in 1986-87 and chairman of the annual convention on four separate occasions. He was a director of DSC for over ten years. Richard served on the board of the Dallas Ecological Foundation (DEF), tax exempt arm of DSC for eight years including four years as chairman. While serving in this capacity, he was involved in conservation projects in the United States as well as worldwide. Several of these conservation projects were in Alaska and Richard developed a keen interest in this last frontier. He has made approximately fifteen trips to Alaska for hunting, fishing, and conservation purposes including float trips on seven rivers in the Bristol Bay drainage. Richard has held membership at various times in other conservation organizations such as Safari Club International, Wild Sheep Foundation, Texas Bighorn Society, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Dallas Woods and Water Club, Quail Unlimited, and others.

Rick Halford: Former Alaska State Senate President
Dillingham, AK

Former State Senate President Rick Halford is a well-respected political leader in Alaska. A popular Republican, he served for nearly 25 years in the Alaska State Legislature, with multiple terms as both Senate President and Senate Majority leader. He retired as Senate President in 2003. He served as an RNC committeeman for Alaska and earned a Defender of Freedom award from the NRA. The Alaska Miners Association was among his most consistent supporters. With about 10,000 flight hours as a commercial pilot and big game hunting guide, Halford has a 44-year view of Alaska's incredible renewable and nonrenewable resources. He's an avid outdoorsman, and now spends his time working to protect Bristol Bay.

Bud Hodson: Owner of Tikchik Narrows Lodge
Anchorage, AK

Hodson has been in the Alaska sportfishing business for over 32 years. He owns and operates one of the finest lodges in the state and has been instrumental in building the strong, successful sport fishing economy in Bristol Bay. Bud is well respected in the business community, and an avid sportsman and pilot. He was appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, serving five years, with four as Chairman. He currently is chairman of the Nushagak-Mulchatna Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, a southwest Alaska group working with anglers, tribes, state and federal governments, and others for the long-term conservation of Bristol Bay's rivers.

Joe Klutsch: Owner of Katmai Guide Service
King Salmon, AK

Joe Klutsch has lived in Alaska since 1972. He has worked as a fishing, hunting and wildlife education guide since 1975 with a home in King Salmon near the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed. Joe guides clients in Katmai National Park, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Becharof, Alaska Peninsula, and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuges. He has been actively involved in fish and game management, serving 32 consecutive years as an elected member of a Bristol Bay fish and game advisory committee. He has also served as President of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association for twelve years and been actively involved in legislative and regulatory process at the state and national level. Joe is committed to long-term conservation of wildlife and habitat for future generations and protecting unique wild ecosystems of Alaska.

Brian Kraft: owner of Alaska Sportsman Lodges
Anchorage/Igiugig, AK

Brian Kraft is a pilot and owner of three high-end Alaska sport fishing lodges, two of which are in Bristol Bay. "Krafty," as he is fondly called, is a well-respected Alaskan business owner, and an avid hunter and fisherman. Brian has lived in Alaska for 25 years, originally working on the North Slope and playing hockey for the Alaska Aces. Brian started a small outfitting business, "Kraft Adventures," in 1992, then transitioned to lodge management in 1994 and now runs some of the most successful lodges in the state. A pro-development businessman, Brian was initially supportive of the Pebble mine. But after asking a few questions, he didn't like what he was hearing and became deeply concerned that the mine would harm the clean water and fisheries. Brian has been involved in protecting Bristol Bay's fisheries for over 5 years and lives with his wife and four kids in Anchorage.

Nanci Morris-Lyon: owner, Katmai Fishing Adventures
King Salmon, AK

Nanci is a successful business owner and avid outdoorswoman. She has been fly fishing and sport guiding in the Bristol Bay area since 1986. Nanci founded and owns Katmai Fishing Adventures; is managing partner of Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge; has served on the G. Loomis professional fishing team; is the lead instructor at the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy; and has been featured in major national fishing magazines and television shows. She's also a pilot and holds numerous saltwater fly-fishing world records. When Nanci isn't running her lodge, coaching the local swim team or refereeing high school basketball, she is working within her community to protect Bristol Bay's fisheries for future generations.

Gaspar Perricone: Co-founder and Co-director, Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance
Denver, CO

A lifelong hunter and angler, Gaspar Perricone is a native of Steamboat Springs, Colo. Perricone's roots in farming, ranching, and outfitting led him to develop a strong respect for conservation and the protection of our outdoor heritage. In 2007 Perricone founded Outdoor Heritage Consulting, a group dedicated to advancing sportsmen's interests throughout Colorado. Prior to co-founding the Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, he served as the Western Slope Director for U.S. Senator Mark Udall. Perricone is currently a Wildlife Commissioner of the Colorado Division of Wildlife; the Conservation Chair of Denver Chapter of Trout Unlimited; as well as a member of Colorado Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Bowhunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the NRA.

Scott Hed: Founder and Director of the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska
Sioux Falls, SD

Scott Hed has worked on Alaska conservation issues since 2001, and has focused on the Bristol Bay campaign through the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska (SAA) project for the past six years. SAA has enlisted the support of over 500 hunting and angling groups and businesses in the efforts to protect Bristol Bay, ranging from catch and release fishing groups to big game trophy hunting groups and fly rod makers to firearms manufacturers. Scott is a lifelong hunter and angler, and a member of Pheasants

Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Izaak Walton League of America, Dallas Safari Club, and the Alaska Professional Hunters Association.

Brad Petzke: Owner of Rivers North Guide Service
Marquette, MI

Brad Petzke is a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Master Captain and owner of Rivers North Guide Service, the primary outfitter for trout, steelhead, Pacific Salmon and Atlantic Salmon in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In 2011, Brad was appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to serve on the state's Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation to explore innovative models to help state parks and recreation areas better serve Michiganders. As an active leader of the Michigan River Guides Association and as the monthly fly fishing columnist for Michigan's largest sportsmen publication – Michigan Outdoors Magazine ("Rivers North") – Brad has a strong presence in Michigan's sport fishing community. In 2010, he represented the Michigan River Guides Association in Washington, D.C. to lobby members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation on issues affecting Great Lakes anglers. U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow later invited Brad to be the Senator's guest for the visit of President Obama to Brad's hometown of Marquette in early 2011. In 2012, Brad partnered with Alaska Fly Anglers to bring the Alaska fishing experience to Michigan anglers.

Dan Vermillion: Co-Owner of Sweetwater Travel
Livingston, MT

After spending years guiding some of the world's most exotic and famed fisheries, Dan formed Sweetwater Travel in 1995 with his brothers, Jeff and Pat Vermillion. Sweetwater Travel owns and operates fishing camps in Mongolia, Brazil, Alaska, British Columbia, and Montana. Dan's guiding career began at the Golden Horn Lodge in Bristol Bay, Alaska in 1986. Dan, his brothers and a group of investors purchased the Copper River Lodge and the Royal Coachman Lodge. In 2006, Dan was appointed to Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission; in 2011, he was appointed to a second term by Governor Brian Schweitzer. Now serving as the Vice Chairman, Dan is the Commissioner for southwestern Montana dealing with endangered species management, fisheries management, and wildlife management. In 2009, Dan was honored to guide President Obama on a fly-fishing excursion during his family's vacation in Montana.

Pat Vermillion: Co-Owner of Sweetwater Travel
Livingston, MT

Pat co-founded Sweetwater Travel along with his brothers, Dan and Jeff, in 1995. Sweetwater Travel owns and operates fishing camps in Mongolia, Brazil, Alaska, British Columbia, and Montana. Pat, his brothers and a group of investors purchased the Copper River Lodge and the Royal Coachman Lodge. Pat is Sweetwater's Alaska specialist, having guided 13 seasons in the state, and runs Sweetwater's two operations in Bristol Bay.

Kirk Otey: President of Stewart Title of the Carolinas
Charlotte, NC

Kirk is the President of Stewart Title of the Carolinas and Managing Principal of The DealBox. Kirk is a past Vice Chair of Trout Unlimited's Board of Trustees, and formerly chaired TU's grassroots-driven National Leadership Council. He also represents TU's interests as a Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

Toner Mitchell: Manager of The Reel Life fly shop; member, New Mexico State Council, Trout Unlimited
Santa Fe, NM

Toner Mitchell has made fly fishing in Alaska a regular habit since 1985. He guided in the Iliamna area in 1993 and 1994 and has fished the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers several times since beginning his work at The Reel Life fly shop work in 2003. The shop has booked about \$100,000 in travel to the Bristol Bay

area since then, and provides additional travel referrals to the area. Toner has been the president of the Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited for three years, also serving on the NM State TU Council. In a previous life, Toner spent time in Butte, Mont., where he studied the impact of the 1860s copper boom on soils, groundwater and surface water. At the time it was the biggest Superfund site in the nation.

Dave Bobzien: Assemblyman, Nevada Legislature
Reno, NV

A Trout Unlimited life member, David Bobzien serves as an Assemblyman in the Nevada Legislature. David Bobzien has a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from George Mason University and a Master of Public Administration, with an emphasis in public lands and natural resources policy, from Boise State University. Following a career at the University of Nevada Reno as the campus webmaster, and four years working for local web design firms and running his own web marketing firm, David recently went to work for a non-profit conservation organization. He lives in Reno with his wife and twin sons.

Jim Geary: Ohio Trout Unlimited National Council Representative
Cleveland, OH

Jim is a fly-fishing guide for Laurel Highlands Guide Service and Chagrin River Outfitters. He is the founding member and President of the Western Reserve Chapter of TU. This year he is serving on the Ohio TU Council as the National Leadership Council Representative.

Judith O'Keefe: Owner of Stream to Sea Travel
Powell Butte, OR

An internationally recognized fishing photographer, Judith owns Stream to Sea Travel, which provides trips to Bristol Bay and around the world. She serves on the board of the Deschutes Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Additionally, Judith is a current board member of International Women's Fly Fishing; a volunteer for Casting for Recovery; works with Project Healing Waters; was recently honored by the American Museum of Fly Fishing by participating in its latest exhibit, "A GRACEFUL RISE, Women in Fly Fishing;" and is a regular guest blogger for Filson Life.

Brian Wagner: Vice President, Pennsylvania State Council – Trout Unlimited
Nazareth, PA

A member of Trout Unlimited since 1996, Brian serves as Vice President for the Pennsylvania State Council and Secretary for the Forks of the Delaware Chapter. An avid fly fisherman in Pennsylvania and beyond, Brian is dedicated to advocate for trout and salmon and the special places, like Bristol Bay, where they flourish.

John Ross: Author and principal of RossWrites
Abingdon, VA

Past chairman of the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, John Ross is the principal of RossWrites which provides strategic communications to higher education and conservation non-profits. He is the author of *Rivers of Restoration* and several other hunting and fishing books including the award-winning *TU Guide to America's 100 Best Trout Streams*.

Steve Laurent: General Manager of Bristol Bay Lodge
Ellensburg, WA

Steve is the General Manager and pilot for Bristol Bay Lodge. He has worked at Bristol Bay Lodge for the last 22 summer seasons. During the off season, he lives in Washington state with his wife and three children.

Mike Kuhr: President of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Milwaukee, WI

Mike is a dedicated angler and long-time advocate for river and stream conservation. He is president of the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, representing over 700 members. He has spearheaded the local Project Healing Waters chapter, which works to provide high-quality fishing trips for veterans in need of healing.

STAFF PARTICIPATING

Shoren Brown: Bristol Bay Campaign Director, Trout Unlimited
Seattle, WA

Shoren has worked on issue and political campaigns for over a decade. The majority of those years specifically with angling and hunting interests through his current position at Trout Unlimited and previously as the campaign director for Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development.

Dwayne Meadows: Bristol Bay National Outreach Director, Trout Unlimited
Corvallis, OR

Dwayne has worked on conservation issues since 2005, the majority of those years specifically with angling and hunting interests through Trout Unlimited, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, National Wildlife Federation, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

David Nyberg: Midwest Coordinator – Bristol Bay Campaign, Trout Unlimited
Skandia, MI

David has worked on conservation issues since 2008 with hunting and angling interests through his position as legislative affairs manager with the Michigan United Conservation Club, and previously worked in the Michigan legislature.

Sam Snyder, PhD: Director Bristol Bay Watershed and Fisheries Protection Campaign, AK Conservation Foundation

Sam has a doctorate degree in environmental studies, and has worked on the Bristol Bay campaign since 2009. Sam coordinates communications among stakeholder groups and oversees research and outreach related to science in the Bristol Bay region.

WASHINGTON DC LOBBY TEAM PARTICIPATING

George Cooper: Cauthen, Forbes & Williams

Bill Horn: Birch, Horton, Bittner & Cherot

Tim Richardson

Tom Sadler: Middle River Group

Eric Washburn: BlueWater Strategies